THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE MURDERED MAN

Islamic Biographies - Volume 2

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The Murdered Man Emerged from the Grave and Revealed His Killer’s Name

Chapter 1: The Greedy Nephews and Satan’s Temptation

The Wealthy Uncle and Destitute Heirs

During the time of Prophet Musa (AS), a wealthy man lived childless. His only heirs were his impoverished nephews. Driven by greed and Satan’s temptation, they grew impatient for their uncle’s death and began to entertain dangerous thoughts.

Satan’s Deceptive Proposal:

One day, Satan appeared before the nephews and suggested a sinister plan:

> “Would you like to kill your uncle, seize his wealth as heirs, and also collect compensation or blood money for unlawful killing from the people of another city?”

He explained that if a murdered body was found between two neighboring cities, the city closest to the corpse would be liable to pay compensation or blood money for unlawful killing.

> “Kill your uncle and place his body near the gate of the other city. You’ll inherit his wealth and also collect compensation or blood money for unlawful killing. from that city.”

Chapter 2: The Murder and the False Accusation

Execution of the Sinister Plan:

Driven by greed and temptation, the nephews murdered their uncle one night and placed his body at the gate of the neighboring city.

The False Accusation:

At dawn, they approached the city's residents and proclaimed:

> "Our uncle was found murdered at your city's gate! Pay us his compensation or blood money for unlawful killing!"

The residents responded:

> “By Allah, we did not kill him, nor do we know his killer. We closed our gates at dusk and opened them only at dawn.”

This dispute became a public matter and was brought before Prophet Musa (AS).

Chapter 3: Divine Revelation and the Cow’s Command

Allah’s Decree through Jibril (AS):

> إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَذْبَحُوا بَقَرَةً

“Allah commands you to slaughter a cow.” (2:67)

The people mocked:

> **“Are you mocking us? We ask about the murderer, and you tell us to slaughter a cow?”**

Prophet Musa (AS) replied firmly:

> أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ

“I seek refuge in Allah from being among the ignorant.” (2:68)

Chapter 4: Stubbornness and the Cow’s Specifications

The First Condition – Age

Allah revealed:

إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ لَّا فَارِضٌ وَلَا بِكْرٌ عَوَانٌ بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ >

“A cow neither old nor young but of middle age.” (2:68)

The Second Condition – Color

They asked again. Allah answered:

> إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ صَفْرَاءُ فَاقِعٌ لَّوْنُهَا تَسُرُّ النَّاظِرِينَ

“A bright yellow cow, pleasing to the eye.” (2:69)

The Third Condition – Nature and Purity
Still unsatisfied, they sought further detail.

Allah disclosed:

إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ لَّا ذَلُولٌ تُثِيرُ الْأَرْضَ وَلَا تَسْقِي الْحَرْثَ مُسَلَّمَةٌ لَّا شِيَةَ فِيهَا >

“A cow neither trained to plow nor water the fields, flawless, without blemish.” (2:71)

The Lengthy Search:

Some narrations suggest it took many years—even decades—to find such a cow, though the exact duration is not confirmed by authentic sources. Popular accounts say it was cherished by its owner, and the people of Bani Israel paid ten times its weight in gold to acquire it.

Chapter 5: The Miracle of Resurrection

Striking the Corpse:

The specified cow was slaughtered, and a piece of its flesh was used to strike the murdered man's body. By Allah's command, he returned to life, blood flowing through his veins.

The Revelation of the Killer:

When asked who had killed him, he pointed directly at his nephews. By Allah’s command, he then passed away again. Justice was swiftly carried out, and the nephews were executed.

Chapter 6: Alternate Narrations

Suddi’s Account:

A narration by Suddi adds that the murdered man had a daughter. One nephew wished to marry her, but the proposal was rejected. In anger, he killed his uncle to inherit his wealth and force the marriage.

The Golden Cow:

Another account tells of a pious man who entrusted a calf to Allah. The calf grew into a golden cow. Guided by his mother, the man’s son sold the cow for its hide, which was filled with gold. That very cow was later used in the miraculous resurrection.

Mazhari’s Account:

A righteous youth, devoted to his mother, received divine guidance to find the special cow. Angels tested his obedience through his mother. Eventually, he sold the cow to Bani Israel for a great sum.